Salt Depot, Alleppey.

486. **MR. P. S. MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that there is a serious complaint among the merchants that the foreign salt imported at Alleppey contains much sand;

(*b*) whether they will make necessary arrangements for the inspection of salt now in the Salt Depot, Alleppey; and

(*c*) whether all the merchants can go and purchase salt from the Salt Depot?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No complaints have been received from the salt merchants that the foreign salt sold from the depot contains sand.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this does not arise.

(*c*) All *bona fide* salt merchants can purchase salt from the depot.

Coir mat and mattings.

487. **MR. P. S. MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware:

(*a*) that coir mats and mattings manufactured here are being consumed in foreign countries; and

(*b*) that the mat and matting industries here have to face keen competition in foreign countries, as some of the foreign countries have begun to manufacture coir mats and mattings?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) Almost the whole of the coir mats and matting manufactured in Travancore is exported. It is understood that mats and matting are produced in some countries of Europe and America.

Particulars re Industries of the State.

488. **MR. P. S. MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the names of the chief industries that are in existence in the State at present (14-11-1928);

(*b*) the number of factories or places for each of these industries; and

(*c*) the number of coolies and other employés working in each of these industries?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The member is referred to pages 114 to 127 of the *Statistics of Travancore* (9th issue).

Oil-mill industry in the State.

489. **MR. P. S. MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that the oil-mill industry here is deteriorating day by day;

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(*b*) whether they ever made any investigation into the causes of this deterioration ;

(*c*) if so, what are the causes of deterioration ;

(*d*) whether they will find out some means to protect the oil-mill industry in the State ; and

(*e*) if no investigation has been made till now (November 1928), whether they will make an investigation for finding out the causes of deterioration and for remedying the same ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) to (*e*). The export figures of cocoanut oil for the last four years show that the oil-mill industry is not on the decline. The industry has been receiving consideration at the hands of the Government from a long time past by a protective tariff, but from enquiries recently made it is learnt that the protection now afforded does not enable it to successfully compete with oil produced elsewhere. The question of granting further protection is therefore engaging the attention of the Government.

Proposal to change the starting place of motor cars.

490. MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the causes that led the Commissioner of Police to consider about the shifting of the starting place of motor cars and buses near the Iron Bridge ; and

(*b*) whether they have received any memorial or petition from the people of Alleppey protesting against this proposal ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Heavy motor traffic has made the present starting place of motor cars and buses quite unsuitable for the purpose and a change is proposed to avoid dislocation of traffic and danger to the public.

(*b*) Yes.

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